AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letters contain a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

U. S. BOARD ENLISTS INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Washington, Feb. 2.—The department of labor is conducting a drive to enlist 250,000 men for future needs of ship building yards.

The department is acting on the theory that there is an insufficient supply in this country if same is listed and properly mobilized. Every man with some skill, in a mechanical trade used in ship building and willing to accept employment in this branch of war industry is being enrolled and registered in the United States public service reserve, a division of the United States employment service.

"The purpose of this national registration," said the department of labor, "in a statement explaining the plan, "is to eliminate the past demoralizing independent efforts to obtain ship yard labor, which frequently have resulted in the promiscuous and unnecessary removal of workers from the so-called 'non-essential' industries, the unintentional taking away of men from one yard from another, and the luring of men from one section of the country to another where they found that the advertised calls for labor did not exist at that time.

"It should be understood that after registration no man is compelled to accept employment at any shipbuilding but it is expected that every one enrolled in the reserve will serve when notified of opportunity. All such notices will be definite as to time, place, wages and labor conditions.

"Hereafter, every ship yard in the United States in need of men will notify the United States employment service of its requirements and these will be filled without delay from lists of unemployed and from members of the public service reserve. By knowing in full the number and quality of the men in the country available for shipbuilding as well as the immediate and future labor needs of the ship yards, the United States employment service of the department of labor will be able to meet every shipbuilding labor requirement as long as the war shall last.

"Of labor, the department asks that every man enroll in the public service reserve and if not at work at present position until he is given notice of opportunity for shipbuilding work.

"Let the entire country understand that there is no general labor shortage at this time, but that there is a maldistribution of labor and that the distribution facilities are now provided through the United States employment service and its public service reserve."

FAT R.R. JOBS WIPED OUT.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The official ax of Director General McAdoo has fallen and landed just below the ears of numberless railroad lobbyists, personnel bureau lawyers, and other political fixers and chanters of the glad refrain, "Let well enough alone."

Mr. McAdoo's order that no revenues shall be expended for the above mentioned purposes.

Many railroads have protested against railroads influencing legislation, but this element in our community will be looked upon as "meddling in politics," although the charge they make has been an echo of the old cry concerning shortage. Now Mr. McAdoo sustains the claim of citizens by his order that no money shall be used "directly or indirectly influence the election of any person or the election affecting any public measure."

Thousands of lawyers throughout the country will be affected, as large staffs have been maintained by the railroads. No one will be left on the pay role on free passes hereafter. The interstate prohibition against this practice has been effective for years, including passes good to the state line, which permitted a man with a handful of tickets to ride from state to state across the country without cost. In some states the use of these passes has become a public scandal.

ARMY PLAN FOR EDUCATION.

Chicago, Feb. 2.—In an address before vocational educators of the middle west here today, Frank Vanderlip, of New York city, urged compulsory vocational education for all persons between the ages of 14 and 18, together with military training. Dr. Dewey suggests that after the war great reinforcements be used at many month centralized schools, where men and women of draft age be indicated would be compelled to attend.

"Such a plan would revolutionize the present social system," he said. "It would strong men were taking military training the physical weaklings could be trained in the schools. We would also provide training for women, who are completely left out of universal training plans."

Dr. Dewey posed as a stern schoolmaster, for his plan calls for more than not only have compulsory education for "grown-ups," but also compulsory military training, "universal military" and the soothing syrup term, "universal military training."

URGES SEVEN-HOUR DAY.

Indianapolis, Feb. 2.—A universal seven-hour day during the period of the war, instead of present suspension of industries, is urged by the administration to conserve coal and relieve railroad congestion, was suggested by President Gompers in a speech to the United Mine Workers' convention.

"We should have practically the same results in the conservation of fuel and all other needful commodities," he said. "It would not be a violation of the theory, the traditions, the work ideals of industrial operation of industry and commerce."

GIRLS STAY IN INDUSTRY.

Washington, Feb. 2.—In a report on industrial experiences of trade school girls, Dr. Meredith Nicholson, chief of the federal bureau of labor statistics, it is stated that the history of the 744 Boston trade school girls who left school and then entered their trades, does not support the common theory that the wandering girls of industry is limited to a few years. After seven years, 61.3 per cent of these girls were still wage earners, 18.4 per cent had married, 9.1 per cent were at home or in school and 11.2 per cent had died or been lost sight of.

LANDLORDS GOUGE.

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 2.—Gov. Holcomb's commission appointed to investigate profiteering by landlords has "struck pay dirt" in Waterbury, where witnesses produced receipts showing they paid $15 a month two years ago and are now paying $20 a month. The situation exists to other sections of the state, it is claimed.

TEXTILE WORKERS WIN.

Pawtucket, R. I., Feb. 2.—Organized textile workers have won a 10 per cent increase from the Atlantic Textile company. Union conditions have been secured.

AVERT PACKING STRIKE BY FEDERAL MEDIATION

Washington, Feb. 2.—With a threatened frontal attack by their employes, and their flank endangered by Uncle Sam as a result of their attempts to block investigations by congress, the nation's meat packers have adjusted differences with their employes. They agree to cease union discrimination and refer wage demands to arbitration, the decision to be effective as of January 14. Secretary of Labor Wilson will name the arbiter.

The settlement includes recognition of committees and seniority in promotions. The question of equal pay for women who are doing men's work is referred to the arbitrator.

Last fall, on returning from the west, the president's mediation commission effected an adjustment of these dispute, or thought it did, until the packers kicked over the traces by insisting that arbitration should be on the long-distance variety, through correspondence, with no face-examinations. Some workers refused to accept this letter-writing plan, and asked President Wilson to take a hand in the plants during the war. The unionists pledged the president a full-handed enlistment for every shipbuilding in the country. The president promised to consider this request and referred the matter to the labor mediation commission, which cited the packers to come to this city and present their side.

During the last several months a war of words has been waged in print through the packing industry and the meat barons have been forced to set aside old antagonisms in Chicago, where 40,000 workers are employed, two-thirds of them are members of trade unions.

MINERS PROTEST DECISION.

Indianapolis, Feb. 2.—The convention of the United Mine Workers has protested against the decision of the United States supreme court in the so-called Hitchman case, which held that an employer cannot be forced to unionism as a condition of employment, union officials can be enjoined and the attempt to unionize the employer's plant.

The convention declared that the court has rendered decisions under conditions that can and may be created by any and all employers and that the right to organize and act collectively shall be denied to the employes.

The convention, therefore, so out of keeping with the progressive thought of the times and the principles of democracy, strikes at a great fundamental and inherent right.

"We insist that this right must not be denied to any governmental agency and that American labor be accorded the same unrestricted right to organize and deal collectively with the employers of labor as has been accorded to the employers of the governments of our allies in France and Great Britain."

The resolution further appointed to consider the Hitchman case reported to the convention that "we have no desire to destroy the rights of capital and the only hope of the organized labor movement, in the face of a decision such as this, is in the possibility to secure legislation that will prevent court procedure."

FARMERS AND UNIONS UNITE.

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—Organized workers, farmers and co-operators have formed the California union of producers and consumers.

The new organization, expected by its founders to become an economic force in the affairs of California, has California state federation of labor, the Farmers' educational and co-operative union and the California co-operative league. Joint action by the three bodies is necessary in every question and each organization will remain in full life for its separate purposes, while the activities of the three will be given to the activities of each, in so far as mutual interest and united opinion warrant.

The purpose of the new movement, as stated in the official announcement, is:

"To bring joint action to bear on legislative matters, and to bring about further public ownership of all public utilities, including transportation and communication; to free the land and society from privilege and monopoly, and to provide a practical plan of co-operation for the direct distribution of food and other necessities of life."

"MOVIE" OPERATORS WIN.

San Diego, Cal., Feb. 2.—Moving Picture Operators' union No. 287 has won a long fight against five exhibitors, according to word received here. The calling is now thoroughly unionized in San Diego.

MILK DRIVERS STRIKE.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 2.—The Pevely Dairy company refused wages to its milk drivers and these employes automatically struck. Business is badly affected with the anti-union microbe.

IRON MOLDERS STRIKE.

Augusta, Ga., Feb. 2.—Iron molders employed by the Lombard iron works and the Georgia iron works have suspended work because they were refused wage increases.

RUBBER WORKERS UNITING.

Akron, Ohio, Feb. 2.—Large numbers of rubber workers are joining the Rubber Workers' union, affiliated with the A. F. of L.

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Reading, Pa., Feb. 2.—Employers have granted the request of their organized plumbers for a wage increase of 50 cents an hour.

PUBLIC UTILITY CORPORATIONS TRIED "TO GET" MOONEY, REPORTS PRESIDENT WILSON'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES

THUMB NAIL SKETCH OF THE MOONEY CASES.

Bomb thrown during preparedness day parade at San Francisco, on July 22, 1916. Six persons killed outright, about 40 wounded, several of whom have since died.

Thomas J. Mooney, Mrs. Mooney, Warren K. Billings, Israel Weinberg and Edward D. Nolan were arrested charged with the crime.

Billings was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment; Mooney was found guilty and sentenced to death; Mrs. Mooney was acquitted, as was Weinberg. Nolan has not been tried. Frank Oxman, principal state witness in the Mooney conviction, was later charged with attempted perjury. He escaped conviction on a technicality.

Oxman was not used at the trials of Mrs. Mooney and Weinberg.

Recall proceedings were started against the prosecuting attorney—Fickert—who defeated the attempt to oust him by a large majority. In the campaign Theodore Roosevelt publicly commended Fickert for his fight against "enemies of the government."

The defendants have been denied bail because of other indictments in connection with the bomb explosion.

The president's mediation commission, of which John H. Walker, president of the Illinois state federation of labor, and E. P. Marsh, ex-president of the Washington state federation of labor, are members, investigated the case. Their report declares that public utilities of San Francisco attempted "to get" Mooney; that when Oxman was discredited the verdict against Mooney was discredited.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The president's mediation commission has reported to the chief executive that Thomas J. Mooney and Warren K. Billings, convicted of complicity in the San Francisco bomb outrages, "were tried in an impregnating atmosphere of guilt."

The commission was appointed last fall by the president as his "personal representatives" to visit the west and investigate labor conditions.

The commission declares that when Oxman, the state's leading witness, was discredited because of perjury the verdict against Mooney was discredited."

Attention is called to the fact that we are in the world war to vindicate law and that "these claims must be tempered by the fire of our own devotion to them at home."

The commission recommends to the president that in the event that the California state supreme court sustains Mooney's conviction, because technical requirements, such as the Oxman perjury, are not a part of the record of the case, that the governor of California, or other executive officers be invoked to secure a new trial.

"The utilities publicly against which Mooney directed his campaign were suspected him of mischievous activity, undoubtedly sought 'to get' Mooney," is the statement of the commissioners against him were directed by Swanson, a police detective. It was Swanson who engineered the investigation which resulted in Mooney's indictment and it was Swanson who was active in attempts to implicate Mooney in the dynamiting of the electric tower. That Swanson's methods failed, it appears, because Billings and Weinberg refused offers of "protection" from Swanson to implicate Mooney. Shortly thereafter the prosecution against Mooney was pushed. Immediately Swanson took a leading part, now acting for the district attorney and directing in the investigation of the crime. Within four days, under Swanson's leadership, the arrest of Mooney and the others is made."

The commission says that Mooney is "a well-known labor radical on the Pacific coast."

"The public mind was therefore easily led to belief in the guilt of the accused," says the commission. "The attitude of passion was stimulated by all the arts of modern journalism. It was not surprising, then, that Billings and Mooney were tried in an impregnating atmosphere of guilt.

"There is no question but that the jury acted in good faith upon the evidence as it was submitted. It is because of subsequent development that the labor unions of the state lose confidence in the justice of the convictions. Following the trials of Billings and Mooney, there was a change in the evidence which not only resulted in the acquittal of Mrs. Mooney and Weinberg, but also cast doubt upon the prior convictions of Billings and Mooney.

"This is due to the dubious character of the witnesses, the subsequent revelations concerning them, and the conduct of the district attorney's office during the trials of Billings and Mooney, there was a distinct change in the sentiment of the community at large, to expose the bomb plot as a deliberate conspiracy of prosperity, good credit and business interests to break the power of labor interfered with by the introduction of these new conditions, which will necessarily curtail profits. Repression for the reason that it will curtail our credit with the wholesale purchasers of our products, and we in turn will therefore, be forced, against our will, to extend no further credit to certain buyers.

"We, therefore, ask the co-operation of the president and his cabinet to direct district at large in our endeavor to allow things to remain as they are, and to avoid panic alarm. Present conditions cannot be bettered, and in organizing we are all taking serious chances."

WANTS HOUR LAW TO STAND.

Madison, Wis., Feb. 2.—In a telegram to George P. Hambrecht, chairman of the Wisconsin industrial commission, Secretary of Labor Wilson advises against extending the hours of working women over the 10 hours specified by law. The commission has been asked by many Wisconsin employers to permit women to work longer than 10 hours because of the federal fuel administrator's order prohibiting overtime work for men.

"Recent British and French experiments in munitions plants demonstrate that output increase maximum production by women workers," says Secretary of Labor Wilson, in his telegram.

"Protection of workers' health was never more important than now. Advice against extending day beyond 10 hours, even in five days a week."

FAVOR U. S. PENSIONS.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Congressman Hayes, of California, has introduced a retirement bill which would allow any employe who has served the government 30 years or more, and who is 60 years or over, to retire and draw an annuity of 75 per cent of the average salary that employe received during the last two years of service. Any person who has served the government between 25 and 30 years, and who attained the age of 62 years, would be entitled to retire at 60 per cent of the average salary received during the last two years.

WILL CENTER THEIR FIRE.

Seattle, Feb. 2.—Trade unionists and farmers in this state will supply ammunition for only three seige guns—a recall measure, a single tax amendment bill and a non-partisan bill—to bombard the Washington legislature.

This action was decided on at a meeting of representatives of trade unions, the state grange, the state federation of labor and the Non-Partisan league. It was shown that a long list of demands permit reactionaries to pose as "friends of the people" by voting for bills of minor importance and defeating fundamental proposals.

MANY CHILDREN UNDERFED.

New York, Feb. 2.—A high percentage of underfed children in this city's public schools was attributed, at a board of aldermen committee hearing, to the high cost of living, which has far outstripped wage increases. Dr. Josephine Baker, head of the health department's bureau of child hygiene, said that 21 per cent of the people in New York are suffering from malnutrition.

ABSENTEE VOTING BILL.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 2.—Assemblyman Martin has introduced a constitutional amendment in the state legislature to permit voting without personal appearance of persons whose employment necessitates absence from the polls.

DROP CHINK DEMAND; SWITCH TO MEXICANS

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—Editor Barry of the San Francisco Star says that California employers have dropped their demand for Japanese, Hindu and Chinese labor and are now asking for Mexican peons.

The Star then quotes Thomas F. Hunt of the University of California returned from Washington, he brought disconcerting news. "The Mexican will be available soon on the farms of California," he says.

"Dean Hunt had made inquiries and found that there was not the ghost of a show that congress or the administration would consider the question after the suspension of the restriction laws relating to Chinese labor. That ended it.

"A quick right-about-face was made by the farmers and others interested, and the Mexican was the only one left."

Estimates of the international institute of Mexico, which has five Chicago packers—Armour, Swift, Morris, Cudahy and Wilson—increased 45 per cent from 1916 and 1917 to that of 1917. These five concerns were declared to have 50 per cent of the packing trade market. While they had on hand January 21, 1918, a total of 58,032,168 pounds of lard, this amount was increased to 177,684,109 pounds July 21, 1917.

The "phenomenal increase" in the leather profits of Armour and Swift companies during the period of the war, profits of the larger tanning companies in 1916 were said to be from two to five times as great as in 1915. The unnamed company said to have made $644,286 in 1914 cleared $3,576,444 in 1916.

MANY WANT JOBS.

Madison, Wis., Feb. 2.—During December, 1917, 4,154 applications for work were received by the four free employment offices conducted by the industrial commission at Milwaukee, Superior, La Crosse and Oshkosh. During the period 4,176 men were called for by employers. Thus, for the first time since September, 1915, the applications for work were practically as great as the number of men called for. This fact doubtless due to the fact that industry is undergoing great readjustments. Nonessential industries are curtailing their work, though the important war industries of Wisconsin are greatly expanding their forces. Employment fell in some months ago to procure the men they need.

Reports received by the industrial commission from other employment offices operating in the state indicate that in the eastern states applications for work are now actually in excess of the number of men called for.

CROP RECORD BROKEN.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Farm products of the United States reached the record value of $17,847,000,000 in 1917, an increase of $49,231 last year, an increase of more than $8,000,000,000 over 1916, and almost $9,000,000,000 more than in 1915.

Preliminary estimate by the department of agriculture shows crops were valued at $11,810,462,762 for the principal crops and $6,037,000,000 for the value of all farm products. Animals and animal products were valued at $5,809,537,238 in 1917, an increase of almost $1,500,000,000 over 1916.

BRICKLAYERS MEET.

Philadelphia, Feb. 2.—The Bricklayers, Masons' and Masons' International union, at its biennial convention, opened here, Ohio, as the second convention city.

Officers' reports show the organization is in a flourishing condition and its recent affiliation with the A. F. of L. was declared a most wise move. Matters relating to the points of trade union principle and direct benefit. Samuel Gompers addressed the convention.

CAN'T EVADE HEATLESS DAYS.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Fuel Administrator Garfield has ruled that any person found guilty of violating any of the usual working time on other days of the week than Monday or Tuesday in an effort to take advantage of Monday holidays will be considered an evasion of the Monday closing order and a violation of the spirit of the decree.

GARMENT CUTTERS GAIN.

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—Wage increases of $5 to $6.50 a week have been negotiated by the Garment Cutters' union.

HIGH PRICES OF SHOES DUE TO HOARDING HIDES

Washington, Feb. 2.—Hoarding of hides by meat packers while shoe prices have been climbing upward, and profiteering in leather, is charged practically control the hide market, are charged in a report to congress by the federal trade commission.

It is stated that slaughtering of cattle and calves in the United States in 1917 was the five years 8,100,000 head or virtually 20 per cent.

"Such a reduction in supply ought not at the same time to mean that the country should be forced to pay advances in prices of leather and shoes made from the correspondingly increased take-off of hides," the report declares.

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TAFT LOOKS BACKWARD.

Philadelphia, Feb. 2.—As an editorial writer in a local newspaper ex-President Taft has taken the last step to turn and resurrects the "wage fund" theory in advising workers how to conduct themselves during the war. This theory, no longer accepted by any school of political economy, is that wages can not be increased except as employers devote more money to the employment of labor.

Mr. Taft, in recalling this almost-forgotten stuff, so consoling to employers who oppose collective action by their workers, writes:

"Members of organized labor who are looking forward to the exaction of higher and higher wages without regard to the merits do not see clearly the situation after the war. The great national burden of debt that we are assuming will require between the two parties a readjustment of the financing of this war involves a reduction of fundamental radical readjustment which peace must bring by a complete cutting off of the great demands for labor supplied by the war. Such a readjustment will produce a halt in business and a period of hard times. Such lots bring people to a realization of fundamental economic truth. It makes them know that they must make sacrifices to take advantage of the country of just treatment of capital in order that the wage earner may be distributed may be as large as possible.

BREWERS RAISE WAGES.

Terre Haute, Ind., Feb. 2.—Brewery Workers' union No. 34 has raised wages 12 to 20 per cent. The International Union of United Brewery Workers of America is assisting local unionists in organizing cereal mills in this city.

Middletown, N. Y., Feb. 2.—A one-to-two-cent wage increase and increase of 10 to 20 per cent has been secured by Brewery Workers' union No. 258.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 2.—Employers of organized brewery workers in this city have raised wages $1 a week, although no contract between the two parties has not expired.

NOT A COLLECTION AGENCY.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The government is not empowered to pay debts, declares the federal comptroller of the treasury. Comptroller of the Treasury Warwick in a decision which holds that funeral expenses may not be paid by the government directly to the undertaker, but must be paid to the widow because he is not the "personal representative" of the deceased employe, being "merely a collecting agency," employe compensation commission ends, says the decision, when the personal representative is paid.

NEW PAROLE SYSTEM.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 2.—The state department of public welfare has established a new parole system, whereby the 2,100 persons who are on parole in Illinois will be visited by parole officers weekly. Under the new scheme an index card for each paroled prisoner will be prepared. This card is placed in a county file for the information of the agent who is assigned to that county.

ACCIDENTS INCREASE.

Madison, Wis., Feb. 2.—The report of the state industrial commission shows that the number of industrial accidents in Wisconsin increased from 18,015 in the industrial year 1913-14, to 16,013 in 1914-15, and 20,560 in 1915-16. This increase in accidents was proportionately rapid than the increase in the number of employes, which is estimated at about 20 per cent.

NO LABOR SHORTAGE.

Washington, Feb. 2.—In urging workers to enroll in the United States employment service for possible future use, the department of labor makes this official announcement:

"Let the entire country understand that there is no labor shortage at this time, that the problem is purely one of distribution, and that the facilities are now provided through the United States employment service and its public service reserve."

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—The maritime bay district council reports that there are more good working mechanics available in the shipbuilding industry than can find employment.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 2.—At a meeting of local building trades council it was suggested that local unions send a list of their unemployed members to the secretary of labor Wilson, to show that there are idle mechanics in St. Louis who are available for work on cantonments and aviation fields. It was stated that there is no scarcity of labor in building trades, this was a false rumor, as we have no ship yard as yet. It is true there is one building yard, but it will be several months before a single ship is started.

"At the present time there is an over supply of men in the building trades line in San Diego, and some of them are likely to be compelled to seek other work shows up, so take our advice and stay away from San Diego."

THREATEN RENT STRIKE.

Seattle, Feb. 2.—The metal trades council, representing 20,000 ship yard workers, threaten a rent strike to check landlord profiteering. The committee announced that if profiteering result, "but we have a vision," they say, "of anything from 5,000 to 10,000 ejectment proceedings going through our courts at one time.

"We have a plan to stop this by uniting to co-operate in providing the necessary labor for this emergency. We will refuse to carry to rooming thousands of people here to be exploited by parasitic real estate sharks who are now preparing to raise rents of the tenants and notify the public that such increase has gone into effect.

"We have evidence of rents being raised in some cases 66.2 per cent during the past four months, and, in one case, rent has been raised 100 per cent in the last year. We intend that further increase from Feb. 1 shall not be asked. We are investigating reports that promises of increased rents have been raised as high as 100 per cent in many cases during the last six months."

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UNIONISTS TO DISCUSS MEANING OF GREAT WAR

Washington, Feb. 2.—Secretary of Labor Wilson and E. P. Marsh, ex-president of the Washington state federation of labor, and member of the president's mediation commission, have prepared preliminary plans for an educational drive to "sell" the war to the workers of this country on what the world war means to them.

Mr. Marsh has resigned to accept the presidency of the Washington state federation of labor to take charge of this work, at the request of Secretary Wilson.

A number of trade union orators have been selected and meetings will be arranged for every section of the country.

In discussing plans of the new movement, Mr. Marsh said:

"Our campaign will be more than the passive support of its citizens. It needs the moral support of moral and physical efforts. The former is of final importance, for with an unshakable spirit, all else follows.

"It is not our purpose to attempt to cram patriotism down the workers' throats because no element is more truly patriotic than the men and women of toil. It is our purpose to tell them what effect a real peace, they will have on their ideals and hopes for a wider liberty and still greater democracy.

"The element of profiteering has been injected into this country as it has in former wars. This evil is indefensible in the present struggle, and it is the duty of every loyal citizen to combat it. But even in its most acute form it has been only incidental to the fundamental that every effort will be kept in the background.

"Democracy, industrial democracy and its extension, as opposed to militarism and autocracy—we will discuss. We will not be afraid to say that after this world war is one more cycle in the onward march of human progress and achievement."

NEW PRISON SYSTEM.

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—The transformation that has taken place in the California state prison system during the past few years has probably not been fully realized by some people, for the reason that it has come about by the conditions which preceded it, says the San Francisco Bulletin.

"Prison scandals and exposures unfortunately have greater news value than additions to prison libraries, the opening of university extension courses to prison inmates, and the gradual replacement of penal methods with curative ones. These quiet changes have been sweeping in their cumulative effect. Take an article by Robert Johnston, of San Quentin, states, for example, that 1,442 of the 1,200 men now in San Quentin are enrolled in the school courses, that there is a library of 7,000 volumes, that 60 per cent of the men draw books, that the parole system is being extended and that 'the men are getting more and more good under it, and that the importance of ill health as a cause of crime is being recognized.' Then there is Folsom, with its open prisons. 'More and more,' says the governor, 'are the treatment of these social problems is being considered as legitimately and primarily within the province of government.' Gone are the straightjackets and other implements of torture. Convicts are no longer herded together and treated like wild beasts. The whole basis of penology within the space of a few years has shifted."

WORKERS "NOT GUILTY."

Madison, Wis., Feb. 2.—"When attempt is made to place the blame for the present high cost of living," the verdict of the part labor has played is 'not guilty,'" says the Capital Times.

"Capital as represented by the owners of the coal mines and the railroad systems of the country has come under the searching light of investigation. There is a public demand that it be shown where the profits of the railroads and coal mines have gone, and why the railroads and coal mines have not been developed to meet the needs of their country demands it. There is a public demand that it be secured by the dollar sign.

"Labor has proven itself a slacker. Labor has proven the real patriot."

OPPOSE CHINESE LABOR.

San Francisco, Feb. 2.—Opposition to the importation of Chinese labor was registered at the recent state meeting of the California state federation of labor executive board, which declared that the importation of Chinese would be a step toward the weakening of the immigration law which has "already proven itself conclusively shown that there is a real labor shortage in our state in regard to the securing of crops during the coming year."

$8 LOCALS ORGANIZED.

Lafayette, Ind., Feb. 2.—Officers of the Building Trades Department Protective association report that 8 charters have been issued during the past week.

Large sums of money have been expended in benefits, it is stated and these have not been confined to sick and funeral benefits alone, for in many instances they are appropriated for strike benefits and other relief.

WANT COAL ORDER OBEYED.

Bridgeport, Conn., Feb. 2.—Attempts by employers to evade the Monday closing order of Fuel Administrator Garfield by working their employes on organized machinists to announce that they would strike at the Bryant electric plant unless the practice of overtime and the men walked out. Other employers, after conferring with their associations, are now "considering" the subject.

SHIP STRIKE ENDS.

Beaumont, Tex., Feb. 2.—A strike by ship yard laborers in the Sabine and Orange has ended by the agreement to arbitrate, with Governor Mediator. The strikers asked wage raises agreed to in Washington by the employers with the exception of the shipyards.

WOOD WORKERS WANT MORE.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 2.—Organized wood workers are asking for an increase of 8 cents an hour, or eight hours' pay for nine hours' work. Justice April 1 next.